Cost Effectiveness:

The site disposal capacity is 14.3 million cubic yards. The site life is approximately 7 to 9 years, depending plant and mine operating variables. Total cost over the project life is approximately $14 million, which averages approximately $0.98 a cubic yard or $0.726 per ton. The incremental clean coal cost is $0.391 per ton.

Availability:

The topography of the site and most of Belmont County is composed of ridges and valleys. The coarse coal waste disposal area proposed will utilize a narrow, forking valley in an unnamed tributary of Piney Creek. The proposed disposal site is located on Company owned land, adjacent to the west of the preparation plant.

Reliability:

The construction of the disposal site will be under the guidance of the site engineer. A quality contol and quality assurance program will be implemented to monitor the construction of the facility. Completed constructed will be certified by the site engineer.

Groundwater and surface water will be protected through the use of diversion ditches, a clay liner, sedimentation ponds, and temporary erosion and control measures such as hay bales, silt fence and seeding. All control facilities will be maintained for their designed operation to insure adequate performance.

Operation and Maintenance Difficulties:

Routine maintenance will include reseeding, replacing riprap and drains, removal of debris from the site, observations and record keeping. A surveillance of the area will be made immediately following any unusual events such as heavy rains, heavy frost, and abnormal structural behavior. The most important maintenance tasks at these times are the prompt backfilling of erosional scarps and slumps, and the repair and improvement of sod drainage systems and riprap.

MINIMAL DEGRADATION ALTERNATIVE

Technical Feasibility:

The minimal degradation alternative is an excepted method for the disposal of coarse coal waste. Normally this technique is used in conjunction with a surface mining operation. The technical restrictions of this method would be the ability of the excavation to keep up with the rate of demand.

Cost Effectiveness:

The disposal capacity is 1.8 million cubic yards. The site life is approximately 1 year. Total cost for the project is approximately $750,000. The unit refuse disposal cost is approximately $0.42 a cubic yard or $0.311 per ton. The incremental clean coal cost is $0.167 per ton. This is the least costly Alternative, however, it does not provide any long-term solutions for disposal of coal refuse from the Century mine.

Availability:

This alternative provides 1.8 million cubic yards of disposal on Company owned property.